

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 PM-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02 L-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 /047 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 259022

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, SN, US

SUBJECT: USAF TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO RSAF

REF: A) SINGAPORE 4704; B) SINGAPORE 4703; C) SINGAPORE
4113; D) STATE 213802.

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1. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE GOS THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE GOS ACCEPTANCE OF THE USAF TRAINING ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR RSAF, THE USAF IS PREPARING A LETTER OF OFFER FOR THE TRAINING COURSES, WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED TO USDAO SINGAPORE SHORTLY. THE GOS SHOULD FURTHER BE INFORMED THAT DOD DESIRES TO SEND LTCOL DRUMMOND (A MEMBER OF THE PREVIOUS STUDY TEAM) TO DISCUSS MTAT COSTING DETAILS FOR INCLUSION IN THE LETTER OF OFFER, AS WELL AS THE TIME-FRAME FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF MTAT MEMBERS. LTCOL DRUMMOND WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE MTAT OPERATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE GOS OFFICIALS, REVISED AS NECESSARY IN LIGHT OF GOS PROPOSED TEAM DUTIES AND THE APPOINTMENT OF EX-ROC OFFICERS TO RSAF POSITIONS. HE COULD ARRIVE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER, SHOULD THAT BE CONVENIENT FOR THE GOS.

2. WE NOTE THAT GOS CANNOT AT THIS POINT FILL ITS KEY STAFF POSITIONS WITH SINGAPOREANS, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE RSAF PERSONNEL RESOURCES WILL BE SPREAD FAIRLY THIN

GIVEN THEIR AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT PLANS. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH TO THE APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL PILOTS FOR RSAF STAFF APPOINTMENTS AS A MANAGEMENT GOAL. FYI: WE THINK IT IS UNFORTUNATE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS THAT GOS WILL HIRE THE EX-ROC OFFICERS, BUT ON BALANCE WE ARE DISPOSED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROGRAM. END FYI.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE TRAINING ASSISTANCE PACKAGE WITH THE GOS, EMBASSY SHOULD STATE THAT WE ASSUME THAT GOS WILL WISH TO INFORM ITS ASEAN COLLEAGUES OF THIS PROGRAM. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO SEEK GOS VIEWS RE PRESS TREATMENT OF THE TRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE AT LEAST A GENERAL PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE MTAT AND TRAINING COURSES, IN THE CONTEXT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE THAT HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY SINGAPORE ON A FULLY REIMBURSABLE BASIS. SUCH A STATEMENT COULD BE MADE BY GOS AND CONFIRMED BY US, OR IN SOME OTHER FASHION IF SO DESIRED BY GOS.

4. PLEASE ADVISE REGARDING PRESS GUIDANCE, GOS VIEWS
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REGARDING APPROPRIATE TIMING OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT, AND RECOMMENDED TIME FOR LTCOL DRUMMOND'S VISIT. ROBINSON

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